

***Phacelia minutissima* Hend.**
least phacelia
Hydrophyllaceae (Waterleaf Family)

Status: State Endangered, USFWS Species of Concern
Rank: G3S1

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1959): Dwarf, branching annual up to 4 inches tall. Herbage shortly spreading-hairy and stipitate-glandular throughout. Leaves mostly oblanceolate or linear-oblong, the blade up to about ½ inch long and 1/8 inch wide, tapering to the short petiole or subpetiolar base up to 1/8 inch long. Inflorescence short, few-flowered. Calyx 1/8 inch long at anthesis, the narrow, linear or oblanceolate segments markedly accrescent (enlarging) in fruit and becoming distinctly unequal in length and width, one sometimes foliaceous and ½ inch or more long. Corolla lavender, 1/16 to 1/8 inch long. Stamens included. Style <1/16 inch long or less, cleft up to half its length. Ovules about a dozen, the reticulate-pitted seeds of similar number and scarcely 1/16 inch long, or fewer.

Identification Tips: The unequal calyx segments are the most useful characteristic of this species to distinguish it from other members of the genus.

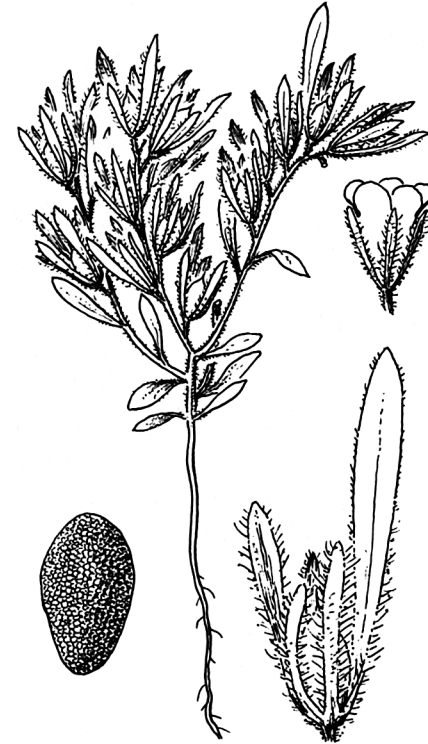
Phenology: Blooms in July.

Range: Known from the mountains of Elko County, Nevada and Owyhee County, Idaho and disjunct in the Wallowa Mountains of Oregon and the mountains of central Idaho. There is one known occurrence in Washington (Kittitas County) in the Eastern Cascades physiographic province.

Habitat: Moist open places at middle elevations (4600 to 8200 feet) in the mountains. The known extant site in Washington is described as being at the lower edge of a meadow near alder and *Veratrum californicum* in fairly dry, rock soil. Other species at the site include *Aster foliaceus*, *Delphinium multiplex* and *Haplopappus hirtus*.

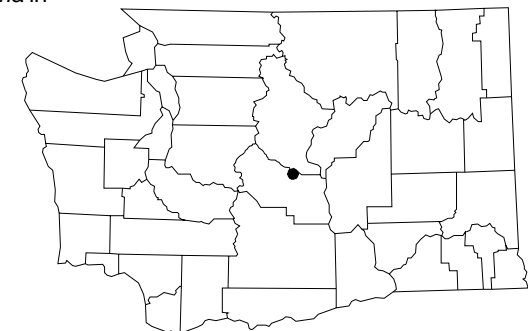
Ecology: *Phacelia minutissima* occurs in ephemerally moist habitats. The Washington site typically stays moist until mid-summer.

Phacelia minutissima
least phacelia



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Known distribution of
Phacelia minutissima in
Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

Phacelia minutissima

least phacelia



Photo by
Ann DeBolt - IDCDC

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least phacelia

State Status Comments: There is only one known extant occurrence in Washington.

Inventory Needs: Inventory is needed in appropriate habitats throughout Washington.

Threats and Management Concerns: Cattle grazing is the greatest threat to the species throughout its range.

References:

Cronquist et al. 1984. *Intermountain Flora: Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, U.S.A. Volume 4: Subclass Asteridae*. The New York Botanical Garden, New York. 573 pp.

Hitchcock, C. L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1959. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 4: Ericaceae Through Campanulaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 510 pp.



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